

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

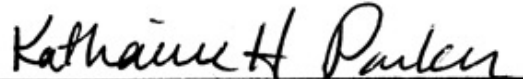
86 Chambers Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10007

May 28, 2021

**BY ECF**

Hon. Katharine H. Parker  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, New York 10007-1312

**APPLICATION GRANTED**

  
**Hon. Katharine H. Parker, U.S.M.J.**  
05/28/2021

**Re: *Wells v. Saul*, No. 20 Civ. 10332 (JPO) (KHP)**

Dear Judge Parker:

This Office represents the Commissioner of Social Security (the “Commissioner”), the defendant in the above-referenced action, which the plaintiff brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) to appeal the Commissioner’s decision to deny his application for Social Security disability benefits.

I respectfully write to request a 60-day extension of time for the Commissioner to file the certified administrative record in this case, from June 1, 2021, to August 2, 2021. The extension is needed because the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the operations of the Social Security Administration (“SSA”) and its Office of Appellate Operations (“OAO”) and materially affected its ability to prepare certified administrative records. As described in the Declaration of Jebby Rasputnis, dated March 17, 2021, beginning in mid-March 2020, the SSA restricted physical access to its physical buildings. (Rasputnis Decl. ¶ 2.) Since that time, OAO has been working to overhaul, redo, refine, and streamline its business processes to continue operations remotely. (Rasputnis Decl. ¶ 2.) It has now reached and surpassed pre-pandemic levels of production of electronic certified administrative records. (Rasputnis Decl. ¶ 2.) However, while the OAO transitioned to a virtual process, the number of new cases filed in federal court also increased, creating a significant backlog that the OAO is still working to address. (Rasputnis Decl. ¶¶ 3-5.)

The plaintiff does not object to this request. This is the Commissioner’s second request for an extension of time to file the record. The Court previously granted the Commissioner a 60-day extension to file the record. (Dkt. No. 10.)

I thank the Court for its consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

AUDREY STRAUSS  
United States Attorney

BY: /s/ Amanda F. Parsels  
AMANDA F. PARSELS  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Tel.: (212) 637-2780  
Email: amanda.parsels@usdoj.gov

cc: Charles Binder, Esq.  
*Attorney for Plaintiff*